

Sub P 3
amended.

First to fourth optical fibers arranged in parallel between said first and second multiplexing units, said first to fourth optical line amplifiers optically coupled along said first to fourth optical fibers, respectively, and configured to amplify said first to fourth subgroups of optical signals corresponding to said first to fourth subwindows within the operating window;

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wherein said first and second multiplexing units are arranged at first and second sites, and said first and third optical line amplifiers and said first and third optical fibers each configured to pass optical signals traveling in a first direction between said first and second sites, and said second and fourth optical fibers each configured to pass optical signals traveling in a second direction between said first and second sites opposite to said first direction.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 12 has been amended. Claims 1-40 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of claims 1-40 is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 12 has been objected to because the dependency of the claim was inadvertently and incorrectly altered in the previous amendment. By the present amendment, Applicants have amended claim 12 to properly depend from claim 1 and to improve form. Withdrawal of the objection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The Office Action has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a), asserting that the drawings do not show the features recited in claims 1 and 7. Applicants respectfully